

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# SERVICE

# NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION  
SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION



January 11, 1941

No. 6

## FIRST ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY REPORT IS PUBLISHED

To Julia Tappan of the Albuquerque staff, your Washington correspondent relinquishes his space this issue. When you have read what she has written, you will know why.

### THIS OUR COLORADO

This our Colorado,

Its heart great mountains dividing the  
continent, source of mighty rivers, the  
Colorado, the Rio Grande, the Platte  
and Arkansas,

Running to the east and south, emptying  
into the Gulf,

Running south and west, emptying into the  
Pacific.

Great mountains sloping down in a series  
of plateaus and great hills to the  
west, cut by canyons and rich valleys,  
To the east dropping abruptly to foot-  
hills, to the plains which are ribbed  
by the shallow irrigated valleys of the  
Platte and Arkansas.

Mountains where tallest peaks are covered  
by perpetual snow--then a narrow belt  
of scrubby alpine growth, forests of  
fir, balsam, spruce and pines, wood-  
lands of juniper and pinon--sloping to

(Continued on page 2)

The recently published Economic and Social Survey Report for the Horse and Rush Creeks Soil Erosion District of Elbert County, Colorado, is the first survey to be completed and made available to governing bodies of soil conservation districts as a pattern for assembling economic data basic to the formulation of work programs and work plans for these districts. The survey report was handled under the planning program of the Economic Surveys Division of which C. F. Clayton is Chief.

The 55-page mimeographed report is an interesting study of farm problems in the Elbert County district with significant recommendations for local economic and institutional adjustments, as well as changes in land use patterns. Available data were assembled for all farms in the district, after which farms were grouped according to land use capabilities and size. Comparisons were then made of each group of farms with a representative farm of the group which had been selected for detailed study, problems of the group were outlined; and recommendations were formulated for the most desirable farm organization and conservation practices for farms with different physical and economic characteristics. Adjustments requiring group action were also suggested.

(Continued on page 2)

U. S. Dept. of Agri.  
Library  
South Building



# THIS OUR COLORADO

(Continued from page 1)

grass-steppes--to steppes clothed in sagebrush-- to valleys where fruits, nut trees and vineyards grow--to great potato fields in the west--beet fields along the valleys of the east.

Colorado. Its soils varying from rough mountainous soils to the light brown sandy loams of the plains and the alluvial soils of the valleys.

The climate varying from desert to arctic. The rainfall from less than ten inches in the San Luis Valley and the Grand and Uncompahgre drainages to over forty inches on the peaks and slopes of the upper ranges.

Its mountains once abundant with wildlife--its streams with fish.

Its mountains and plains and valleys abundant, too, with cattle, sheep, hogs, and other domestic animals.

And everywhere is man.

The men of the soil who plough and dig, irrigate--harvest.

Men who herd sheep in lonely places--men who round up the cattle.

The busy men of the cities--men who buy and sell, who turn the fruits of the earth into sugar, into flour, into bread--metal into wire and rails.

Men who are busy in stockyards, teachers, lawyers, doctors, public servants, bankers, merchants.

The men of the mountains--miners, lumbermen.

Men of adventure, who seek high peaks and lonely wilderness.

Men who fish in clear mountain streams--men who hunt fur-bearing animals, beaver, mink, foxes; who hunt deer and elk, duck and geese.

Men who come from the four corners of the earth seeking beauty, health, pleasure.

Men of many colors and races--a million or more--working, playing--struggling, being born, and dying.

White men, Indians, Negroes, Chinese, Italians, Japanese, Russians, Scandinavians, and many others--clustered around the skirts of Colorado--thinning out in the high mountains, gathered in river valleys and cities, scattered over plain and mountain.

Men traveling its great transportation arteries by car, by airplane, by rail.

Arteries which long ago were trod by the feet of the red man, by the early Spaniard, by the trappers, by the covered wagons, by the gold seekers.

This our Colorado then is not just the land-- the rivers, the climate,

Not just the vegetation and animals, population, cities, industries, or transportation.

Not just a political division of the United States--

But rather all of these acting and reacting on each other and as a unit called Colorado--

Acting and being acted upon by many other units called Arkansas, Wyoming, New Mexico, New York, California, and all the others.

--Julia B. Tappan

## ECONOMIC SURVEY PUBLISHED

(Continued from page 1)

The report is supplemented by an appendix which contains charts and notes relating to each of the farms studied. Maps which show each operating unit in the district have been prepared and can be used in meetings where the survey report is used in discussion with the farmer.

The Elbert County survey was conducted under the general leadership of C. Luker, Regional Assistant Chief in charge of Surveys and Plans. Theodore A. Neubauer, Acting Chief of the Regional Economic Surveys Division, Region 6, was directly in charge of the work. R. T. Stewart, Land Economist, Economic Surveys Division, organized the survey and assisted in the field work.

## ANTHONY TRANSFERS TO INTERIOR'S LU PROGRAM

Harold Anthony, whose service in SCS information antedates the Division of Information itself, has resigned to handle information for the Department of Interior's new soil conservation program on public lands under its jurisdiction.

Anthony's affiliation with information in the Service goes back to October 1934, when he started on the demonstration project at Minden, Louisiana. He was Regional Information Officer for Region 4 at Fort Worth for two years, and in December 1937, came into the Washington office to head Visual Information work - and later the Press and Radio work of the Information Division.

He says if all the words he's written about soil erosion and soil conservation were laid out end to end they'd go just about as far as that train of freight cars full of eroded soil stretched around the equator. They were good words, too, according to those who know.

## MICH. DISTRICT DIRECTORS FORM STATE ORGANIZATION

Directors of Michigan's seven soil conservation districts met recently to organize a state association. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and plans made for another meeting to be held in East Lansing during Farmers' Week in February. An annual meeting will be held the third Thursday in February of each year.

A total of 34 district directors and other interested persons attended the organization meeting at the soil conservation-CCC camp near Grand Haven.

- O -

The CCC has intensified activities bearing upon national defense and is providing training to 300,000 enrollees.

## OFFICE OF LAND UTILIZATION TO CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

An office of Land Utilization has been created in the Department of Interior to administer soil conservation work on public lands under the jurisdiction of that Department. Establishment of the new office carries out the President's Reorganization Order Number 4, under which certain functions and employees of the Soil Conservation Service were recently transferred to the Department of Interior.

Approximately 450 employees of the SCS went over to Interior last summer as a result of the reorganization plan. Twenty-eight of these employees are still in Washington; the remainder has been assigned to work in the field.

Conservation projects on public land actually will be carried out by the various bureaus administering land under the Department's supervision, according to present plans. Thus work on Indian reservations will be carried out by the Office of Indian Affairs, in grazing districts by the Grazing Service, and so on. The new Office of Land Utilization will merely supervise these activities.

Lee Muck, who has served as Director of Forests under Secretary Ickes, has been named as Assistant to the Secretary in Charge of Land Utilization. Mr. Muck will continue to have charge of coordinating forestry practices within the Department of Interior and will direct this work from his new office.

- O -

Milton Eisenhower has resigned as Director of Information of the Department to devote full time to his duties as Land Use Coordinator.

Morse Salisbury succeeds him as Director of Information.



## CHIEF MAKES ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of SCS, which is now in page proof, is expected soon to be off the presses and available for distribution. The 1940 report of the Chief reviews the history and accomplishments of soil conservation in the United States since 1933.

A particularly interesting feature of the report this year is the section devoted to conservation economics in which examples of the economic advantages of the soil conservation program are cited for all parts of the country.

## MAP SHOWS DISTRICTS GROWTH

Activities in establishing soil conservation districts are graphically portrayed on a recently published map showing states in which soil conservation districts laws have been enacted and districts which have been determined practicable and feasible by state soil conservation committees as of November 15, 1940.

There is a decided contrast between the latest map and the first map of this kind, published in September 1939. While only two states--Kentucky and New York--have been added to the list of those having district laws, the number of districts has more than doubled. The formation of districts is continuing actively; at this writing, 429 have been organized. Comparison of the areas representing districts on the new map with those on the earlier map reveals that, while the districts continue to advance in the Southeast, all sections of the country are showing a vital interest.

- O -

With 124,000 National Guardsmen and 20,000 selectees already in the Army in addition to the 400,000 regulars, the President has ordered to active duty, between January 6 and 17, thirty-five more National Guard units.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE NEWS

"Conscientious objectors" to military service may be given defense work in conservation and reforestation if a recommendation made by Selective Service Director Dykstra is adopted. According to a recent statement by Mr. Dykstra a proposed plan has been developed, with the approval of the President, by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, the Federal Security Agency, and the National Council for Conscientious Objectors. The assignment of "conscientious objectors" to work of this kind, said Mr. Dykstra, would meet "the letter and the spirit of the Selective Service Act." The act stipulates that persons classed as conscientious objectors "shall, in lieu of induction, be assigned to work of national importance under civilian direction."

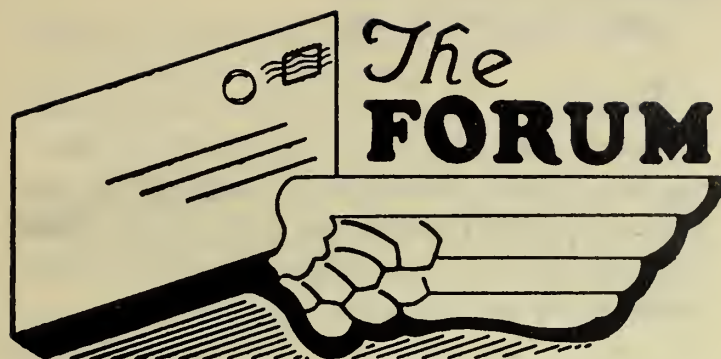
- O -

Aerial photography, originally undertaken on a large scale by the USDA as an inexpensive and easy way to survey farm lands, has taken on military importance of the first rank as a result of the present national defense effort. Aerial photographs covering 90 percent of the farm land area in the United States--about two-thirds of the total area--now represent a wealth of military information that the Army plans to utilize for defense.

SCS has supplied a number of reproductions of areas in which the War Department is interested.

- O -

The Army is also very much interested in the SCS publication just off the press, "The Slotted Templet Method for Controlling Maps Made from Aerial Photographs" by Harry T. Kelsh. Printing of the booklet was rushed upon request of the Army and copies will be furnished to the cartographic units of that organization.



DEAR EDITOR:

Back in 1935, when the Soil Erosion Service was transferred from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture, it was at a major crossroad in its brief but lusty life. Almost anything might have happened.

But right there at the crossroad the Service found a friend to help it on its way. Out of Agriculture came a young man, sincerely willing to give us a hand we sorely needed. For months, he worked as hard as any man could work and when he got through the SCS was established and respected as a bureau of the U.S.D.A. The SCS owes a lot to that young man. His name is Milton Eisenhower.

The other day he resigned from the job he's held for twelve years as Director of Information, to give full time to a job he's also been doing for the last three years or so. From now on he'll just be Coordinator of Land Use.

That's why this is written. The Coordinator's job is a thankless one, at best, --getting into everybody's business is no fun. But if anybody ever deserved the friendship and support of the SCS, Milton Eisenhower does. There's a chance now to let him know, by real cooperation in his work, that what he did for us five years ago we do appreciate.

I sure hope we will.

ABG

EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: On page 9 of the December 12 issue of Service News we note, for the second time, that space has been given to a report of the Community Chest activity in the Washington office. We assume that the last report is final and that only 82% of the staff are sufficiently loyal Americans to participate in an American activity.

The field does not understand why so much attention should be given to the results obtained in a half-hearted organization. Why not say something about the results of some of the regions? One region, I know of, contributed 115%; one area office, the second day was over 100%. Why not look into this question farther and get some news worth mentioning?

K.V.W. . . .

(See p. 6 regarding Community Chest story. ED.)

- O -

#### MESCH IS APPOINTED AS HEAD OF SAFETY COMMITTEE

Harold C. Mesch, Head of the Safety and Health Section, Personnel Management Division, has been appointed chairman of the Agricultural Safety Committee of the Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council. Interests of the Agricultural Safety Committee are not limited to the USDA but extend to all Federal organizations which deal with problems of the rural population.

Mr. Mesch, who was appointed by E. P. Herges, chairman of the Council, replaces Charles M. Fergusson, whose appointment expired on January 1.

The Safety Council was established by executive order on March 21, 1939 and is composed of eight major committees, one of which is the Agricultural Safety Committee.



## REGIONAL CONSERVATORS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The regional conservators are in Washington for their annual meeting, January 6 to 11. Principal topics of discussion deal with current budgetary problems, ways and means of extending greater assistance to districts, and the possible effect of the defense program on the Soil Conservation Service.

A fuller report of the conference will appear in the next issue of SERVICE NEWS.

## MORE REGIONS REPORT RE CHEST CAMPAIGNS

The Berkeley regional office reports a successful campaign for Community Chest funds in that city. Members of SCS joined with other Federal employees to contribute to the campaign. Frank M. Whiting, Postmaster, who was in charge of the drive among all Federal employees, states that the government workers have subscribed to their quota in excess of 176 percent and in all probability they will reach 190 percent.

The Milwaukee regional office sends word that employees there have pledged \$975.75 to the Community Chest, which is an average pledge of \$4.83. Of the 215 employees in the regional office, including Letter of Authority employees, 202, or 94 percent, made pledges. In 11 of the 17 divisions, 100 percent of the employees made pledges.

The Washington office pledged \$5131.56 or only 83.86 percent of its quota.

Five regional offices have reported to SERVICE NEWS on the success of the local Community Chest campaigns. The other five regions can report if they want to.

- O -

Unifying of American Republics will be the dominant note in the President's inaugural ceremony, according to Joseph E. Davis, committee chairman.

## EMPLOYEES RECALLED FOR LAND ACQUISITION WORK

Work being done by the Land Acquisition Division for the War Department in connection with a number of camp sites, has made it necessary to recall to active status a number of employees who were furloughed during the year.

Approximately 180 people have been temporarily employed in the field in connection with land acquisition work for the War Department. Field offices have been set up at most of the purchase sites, and about 45 employees -- curative specialists, abstractors, and clerical help -- are now working in these offices. Approximately 135 persons have been employed as surveyors, land appraisers, and foresters (timber cruisers) and are rushing their work so that land acquisition may be consummated as rapidly as possible.

## DID YOU SEE IT TOO?

A typographical error slipped by the proof reader when the December 12 issue of SERVICE NEWS was being prepared for press. C. F. Clayton, Chief of the Economic Surveys Division, spied it, though, and we got this note:

"On Page 9 of Service News for December 12, 1940, you ask the intriguing question, 'What is a Nurseyman?! I'll bite - what is he, she, or it?!!!"

Now we worked for "Cap" Clayton several years and we thought he knew about those things. But then, a fellow can't know everything. So we're letting him in on it.

Cap, it's this -- when a botanist is first employed by SCS, he is a novice or a nurseyman. After 5 years' employment, he is graduated and we give him an extra R because he is then a Registered Nurse-ryman.

Anyway, I'm glad to know we have a diligent reader of the NEWS.



## WORK MEETINGS ARE AID IN DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Work meetings, arranged by Soil Conservation District officers and attended by the cooperators in a potential work area and Service personnel are greatly facilitating both planning and operations of districts in Arkansas, according to D. S. Myer, Assistant Chief, who recently visited that State.

Although other factors were equally responsible, one district, employing this procedure, wrote 806 farm plans, involving 113,000 acres, in 15 months' time. Field work also was accelerated and, without sacrificing thoroughness, included 2,500 miles of new terraces, 2,428 acres planted to Bermuda for pasture, 1,538 acres of cover crops planted, 3,513 acres farmed on the contour, 5,462 acres put in approved rotations, 5,204 acres of farm woodland improved, and many terrace outlets built for both old and new terraces.

After cooperators through their district organization have established priority work areas, farmers in these localities are asked to attend a meeting to discuss the field work program. The district requires attendance by the farmer or his representative and specifies that his farm plan must be brought to the meeting.

Before the field operations are scheduled, the cooperator and SCS representatives take each farm plan and discuss what preliminary work should precede the arrival of field crews and machinery to insure maximum efficiency and avoid unnecessary delays. Thus the cooperator knows exactly what preparation and materials are expected of him, when the CCC camp crews will arrive, and similar information he needs to know to properly schedule his work.

From these plans and conversations, the camp superintendent learns what equipment and how many men can be used efficiently

on each farm under discussion. He can arrange his crews so that no lost time will ensue and can plan the most efficient use of the camp machinery with the least number of moves.

The meetings themselves are handled with the same dispatch that characterize the work to follow. Four such meetings have been held at staggered intervals in four parts of the district during the same day, the different times for meeting permitting the Soil Conservation Service representatives to attend them all.

Cooperators and SCS personnel alike agree that the work meetings, or execution meetings as they are often called, save time. Additionally, the meetings provide a basis for a complete understanding as to when work is to be undertaken, what preliminary work is required, when the crews will arrive, how many men will be needed for each job, how the machinery can be rotated for best use on adjacent farms, and the many similar details on which greatest efficiency and smooth operation depend.

- O -

## CCC BOYS IN REGION 2 COMPLETE DRIVERS COURSE

1,800 CCC enrollees in 64 camps in Region 2 have completed, since January 1, 1940, the drivers' training course, which is mandatory before any enrollee can receive his driver's permit. The training course consists of 40 hours of classroom discussion, demonstration, practice driving with coaching, and tests under trained supervision.

Upon completion of the course, each enrollee is awarded a letter of recognition, which is endorsed on the back by the camp superintendent for each three-month period the enrollee drives without an accident. This letter can be used by the enrollee upon leaving the camp as his recommendation as a safe driver.

## PRINTERS INK

✓ "Soil and Water Conservation in the Southern Great Plains" by H. H. Bennett appears in the December issue of *Soil Science*.

✓ L. H. Schoenleber has written on "Terrace Dimension Changes and the Movement of Terrace Ridges" for the December *Agricultural Engineering*.

✓ "Runoff from Small Agricultural Watersheds" by David W. Cardwell is included in the December *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Forests in the Arizona Desert" by Clarence E. Olson appears in the December issue of the *Journal of Forestry*.

"Erosion Control Work Creates Demand for Native Grass Seed" by Howard Benham, is published in the November issue of *The New Mexico Stockman*.

"A 'Swimmin' Hole' with Modern Fittings" by S. W. Sapihie in the December *Engineering News-Record* reports on the development of the Crab Orchard Lake in the southern Illinois LU project and explains how treated water and other sanitary control features have been applied to a natural swimming pool.

"The Cedars of Lebanon--Then and Now" by W. C. Lowdermilk is published in the January issue of *American Forests*.

"Soil and Water Losses from Three Areas Devoted to Different Land Uses" is the title of a preliminary mimeographed release just out by the Northwest Appalachian Soil Conservation Experiment Station, Zanesville, Ohio. Dr. H. L. Borst, project supervisor, and Russell Woodburn, associate agricultural engineer, are the authors.

*dup* C. E. Olson is the author of "Forests in the Arizona Desert" which appears in the December *Journal of Forestry*.

## OFF THE PRESS

The following SCS publications are now available upon request:

"The Slotted Templet Method for Controlling Maps Made from Aerial Photographs" by Harry T. Kelsh. Miscellaneous Publication No. 404.

"Small Irrigation Pumping Plants" by Carl Rohwer and M. R. Lewis. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1857.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the Mad River Watershed, Vermont" by C. H. Atkinson. Erosion Survey 13.

- O -

Julia B. Tappan, Director of Educational Studies in Region 8 has written and edited a particularly fine bulletin on "Colorado's Wealth: A Bulletin on Conservation of Natural Resources" which has been published by the Department of Education of the State of Colorado.

- O -

*Harper's Magazine*, December, carries the story of "My Father Was a Soil-builder" by A. H. McDonald.

- O -

Soil conservation districts will be featured in a special February-March issue of *Soil Conservation* to be off the press about the middle of February.

A lead article by the Chief traces the rapid progress of the districts movement. Other articles will discuss the various aspects of the districts and the Service's relation to them. Progress reports from certain districts will offer ideas that may be useful in other localities.

Editor Brink says the issue will be very special.